

Flying Start Partner Webinar: Preschool Plus – update for current services – 23 July 2026

Q & A Summary

Q. What happens with leftover funding?

A: Funding is adjusted through the quarterly Preschool Plus enrolment and funding process, not immediately when a child's participation changes. Each Preschool Plus funding stream has its own spending rules, and any remaining or uncommitted funding must be managed in accordance with those rules (See the Policy and Funding Guide). Services should ensure quarterly reporting is up to date and refer to the relevant funding guidance for each funding stream.

Q: Enrolment hours VS attendance hours

A: Enrolment hours are the teacher-led preschool hours a child is enrolled to attend the service as part of their agreed Preschool Plus program. Attendance hours are the teacher-led preschool hours the child actually attends. Services should enrol children for at least 1,000 teacher-led preschool hours per year, make every endeavour to support enrolment and attendance for up to 1,200 hours where possible, and monitor attendance throughout the year.

Q: When a family has used their CCS allowable absences how to fund their potential non attendance

A. Families should be notified when they are close to exceeding their allowable absences. Where a family exceeds their allowable absences, services are responsible for notifying their Local team.

Whilst all efforts to support families and children to establish consistent attendance should be made, continued enrolment in Preschool Plus is reliant on families



regularly attending and maintaining communication with the service. service. If this is not occurring, the Preschool Plus Partner Service must inform their Local Team and seek further guidance on continuing the enrolment.

Q. Can we have examples of how to spend the Outreach (now called Ready Set Preschool) funding

A. Yes. Attachment – Funding Categories and Examples provides detailed examples of eligible expenditure across the Ready Set Preschool funding categories, including Nutrition, Transport, Clothing and Essential Items, Urgent Family Needs and Community Connection. The examples are intended to support consistent interpretation of the funding categories and are not exhaustive.

Q: Can families tell us what they need? Or is it our judgement?

A: Both. Services should work in partnership with families, recognising they know their child best, while also using professional judgement to identify barriers to preschool enrolment and attendance. Decisions about how Ready Set Preschool funding is used should be informed by conversations with families, service observations, local knowledge and, where applicable, discussions with the referring practitioner.

Q. How do we work out what the families need if they don't disclose their struggles

A: Families may not always disclose everything they are experiencing. Services should build relationships over time, observe attendance patterns, maintain regular conversations with families and, where appropriate, work with referring practitioners to understand existing supports and identify barriers that may affect preschool enrolment or attendance.



Q: Before signing the agreement and joining the service, can OECD ensure families know the outline of hours and how many days, hours etc they must attend?

A: Once a Preschool Plus place has been confirmed, the Partner Service works with the family to finalise enrolment arrangements, including the child's days and hours of attendance. Services should ensure families understand the Preschool Plus attendance expectations and that enrolment arrangements support the intended teacher-led preschool program, before the child commences.

Q: What if a child doesn't have any obvious barriers to attendance, or doesn't need supports such as food or transport? How should we use the Ready Set Preschool funding?

A: Ready Set Preschool funding is intended to reduce barriers to preschool enrolment and attendance. Not every Preschool Plus child will require the same level or type of support. Services should consider whether there are any current or emerging barriers to enrolment or attendance and use funding in line with the approved spending rules. If a child or family does not require, or chooses not to accept additional support, funding should not be redirected to activities outside the approved spending rules simply to use the allocation.

Q: Who to best direct specific spend questions to?

A: Your Local Team should be your first point of contact for day-to-day implementation support, including questions about eligible expenditure. They can also connect you with OECD when additional policy or funding advice is required.

Q: For self-selection can children be moving from 3-year-old preschool to 4-year-old preschool?

A: For initial implementation, the focus will be on 3-year-old children, as Preschool Plus is designed as a two-year program.

